

Sermon: God's Real Gospel.

Delivered by **Zach Fallon**, high school pastor, on July 19, 2020

Bible text explored: Galatians 1:1-9

¹Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—
²and all the brothers who are with me,

To the churches of Galatia:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

⁶I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—⁷not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. In his letter to the churches of Galatia, Paul dispenses with expressions of praise, thanks, or prayer that mark his other letters. Instead, he moves directly (in *verse 6*) to what has shocked him. What is that?

Accompanied by Barnabas, Paul had taken the gospel to the Roman province of Galatia (as recorded in *Acts 13:13—14:26*). What (*verse 1, above*) should assure the converts in Galatia that the good news he had preached to them was reliable?

2. What divine quality (*verses 3-6*) were the Galatians beginning to repudiate by attempting to earn God's favor?
3. How is the grace that rescues us from this evil world accessed? (See *Romans 3:23-25a*.)

How does an "empty hand of faith" exclude any other basis of merit? (See *2 Corinthians 12:9*.)

How does this work—in Don Moen's words in *He Giveth More Grace*—"When we have exhausted of our store of endurance; when our strength has failed ere the day is half done."?

4. How does attributing our salvation—past, present, and future—to Christ's work alone bring God glory?
5. Why (*verse 7*) does adding any requirements to faith undermine what makes the gospel Good News?